

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination FormSee instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Tipton County Court House

and/or common Tipton County Court House

2. Location

street & number Public Square

N/A not for publication

city, town Tipton N/A vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county Tipton code 159

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Tipton County Commissioners

street & number Court House

city, town Tipton N/A vicinity of state Indiana 46072

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder's Office

street & number Tipton County Court House

city, town Tipton state Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ nodate ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town state

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Tipton County Court House is 84' x 120' in size, a Richardsonian Romanesque structure sited on an ample public square, the facade being the north elevation. The square clock tower at the northwest corner stands at a height of 170', the four wood dials each being 10' in diameter. The Seth Thomas clock, originally an hour striking clock with the bell weighing 3000 lbs., was electrified in later years. The bell shows the following inscription: "Cast for Tipton County Indiana Court House A.D. 1894". The square stairwell tower at the back (south elevation) as well as the clock tower and a smaller tower at the northeast corner, have pyramidal roofs. The roofs of the towers, the hipped roof of the main building, and the five dormer roofs are covered with Pennsylvania black slate 14" x 20". There is wrought iron cresting on the main roof.

Berea limestone from Ohio was used for the courthouse exterior. The raised basement and first story are of rock-faced stone, with a dressed stone base and belt course separating the basement from the first story as well as the first from the second. Above the second belt course the stone is used in alternating bands of rock-faced and dressed.

The main (north) facade (Photo 1) of the square plan structure is flanked by square towers. The east tower is four stories above a raised basement, while the west clocktower rises above the building to eight stories. Each tower is surmounted by a pyramidal roof. The 3 1/2 story main block of the courthouse is five bays wide with a central, semi-circular, arched doorway surrounded by Doric columns and entablature. Two pairs of rectangular windows flank the first story doorway. The first and second stories are separated by a carved, ornamental bank and a dressed belt course.

The second and third stories of the building are treated as a single visual unit on the main facade. Fluted pilasters, topped with elaborate floral capitals, separate five pairs of windows. Rectangular second story windows are separated from semi-circular third story windows by short bands of stylized foliated relief. The recessed wall plane of this section is of ashlar.

The hip roof is pierced on this facade by a central dormer, with semi-circular arched windows echoing the window groups below. The gable pediment is filled with elaborate floral relief surrounding a central cartouche.

Other facades are similar but less ornate. A secondary entrance is located on the south facade in the central, six-story stair tower.

The ground level corridor floor and corridor door sills are covered with flagging of Oolitic limestone laid in lime mortar. Encaustic tiling was used for the second, third and fourth story corridor floors. Marble wainscoting is in the main (north) entrance, second and third story corridors and the staircase from the first to the fourth story. White oak was used for all the wooden finish throughout the entire building. The wood handrails on all the wrought iron staircases are of polished cherry.

There are 11 rooms on the first floor, plus the boiler room, the old coal bin converted into a storage room, and two restrooms. On the second floor the 14 rooms have approximately 20' ceilings. The third floor is for the judiciary and has 10 rooms besides the court room, plus a restroom. The fourth floor houses 10 rooms, a restroom and an unfinished attic. The fifth or attic floor is one, large room. The floors of the various rooms are laid in concrete and covered with seasoned oak. There is a spiral wrought iron stair leading from the second floor room (originally the Clerk's Office) to the Court room above. The dumb-waiter in the same location is now inoperable. From the

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1893-94

Builder/Architect Pearce & Morgan/Adolph Scherrer

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Tipton County Court House, besides being the major architectural presence in the community, has served as the seat of county government for 90 years, and continues in that capacity today.

This is the fourth court house for Tipton County, Indiana. The public square upon which it is situated is located in the center of town and is the focal point for all county business. The land was donated by Samuel King, an early pioneer and leader in the sparsely settled community. The architecture is unique for this agricultural community, being the only structure of its kind in this area. The superb craftsmanship and detailing is unsurpassed. The architect was considered one of the best in the midwest, at that time having been commissioned to build the Indiana State Capitol Building in Indianapolis.

Adolph Scherrer, senior member of the firm, Adolph Scherrer & Sons, and pioneer architect of Indianapolis, was a resident of Indianapolis for 52 years who observed the growth of the city and had a prominent part in planning many buildings erected during that time. He was born in Switzerland in 1849, attended common schools in Switzerland, and later studied in universities in Vienna and Budapest. He came to the United States in 1870, remained in New York a short time, spent two years in Chicago, and came to Indianapolis in 1873. Soon after his arrival there he entered the service of Edwin May, one of the leading architects of Indianapolis of that day. Mr. May had the commission for drafting plans for the present State Capitol Building, but upon his untimely death, Mr. Scherrer took up the work and carried it to completion (1888). His name is inscribed on state records as supervising architect for the structure. His work in Indianapolis was to be seen in many of the city school buildings, the New York Store, Police Headquarters, Maennerchor Hall (1906), Central Indiana Institute for the Insane, the Blind Institute, the Hoosier Athletic Club, Gateway to Crown Hill Cemetery & Office Building (1885), and many others. At the time of his death in 1925 Mr. Scherrer held a Fellowship in the American Institute of Architecture—the doors of which were only opened to receive men of merit and high attainment in their profession.

In 1894 the bond signed by Charles Pearce and Thomas Morgan stated that they were resident freeholders of Delaware County, Indiana, with the company being known as Pearce & Morgan of Indianapolis. Thomas Morgan, general contractor, helped plan the building of a five-story modern business block at Walnut & Charles Streets in Muncie, Indiana, was co-builder and co-owner of The Johnson Block in the City of Muncie, and has a sub-division in Muncie named after him. He first appeared in the Muncie City Directory in 1893 and last appeared in the directory in 1911. Charles Pearce, d/b/a Charles Pearce & Co. of Indianapolis, was awarded the contract for the Delaware County Court House, Muncie, Indiana, in 1885. Prior to that time he had built the Clinton County Court House, Frankfort, Indiana, and the Tippecanoe County Court House in Lafayette, Indiana.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2 acres

Quadrangle name Tipton, Indiana

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6	5	8	0	5	4	0	4	4	5	9	2	4	0
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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property is the Public Square, bounded on the north by E. Jefferson Street, on the west by S. Main Street, on the south by E. Madison Street, and on the east by Court Street, in Tipton, Indiana

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary H. Heron, Chairman
Historical Landmarks Committee

organization Tipton Co. Historical Society

date October 25, 1983

street & number 117 Court Street

telephone 317/675-4685

city or town Tipton

state Indiana 46072

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

J. M. P. [Signature]

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

date 1-24-84

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

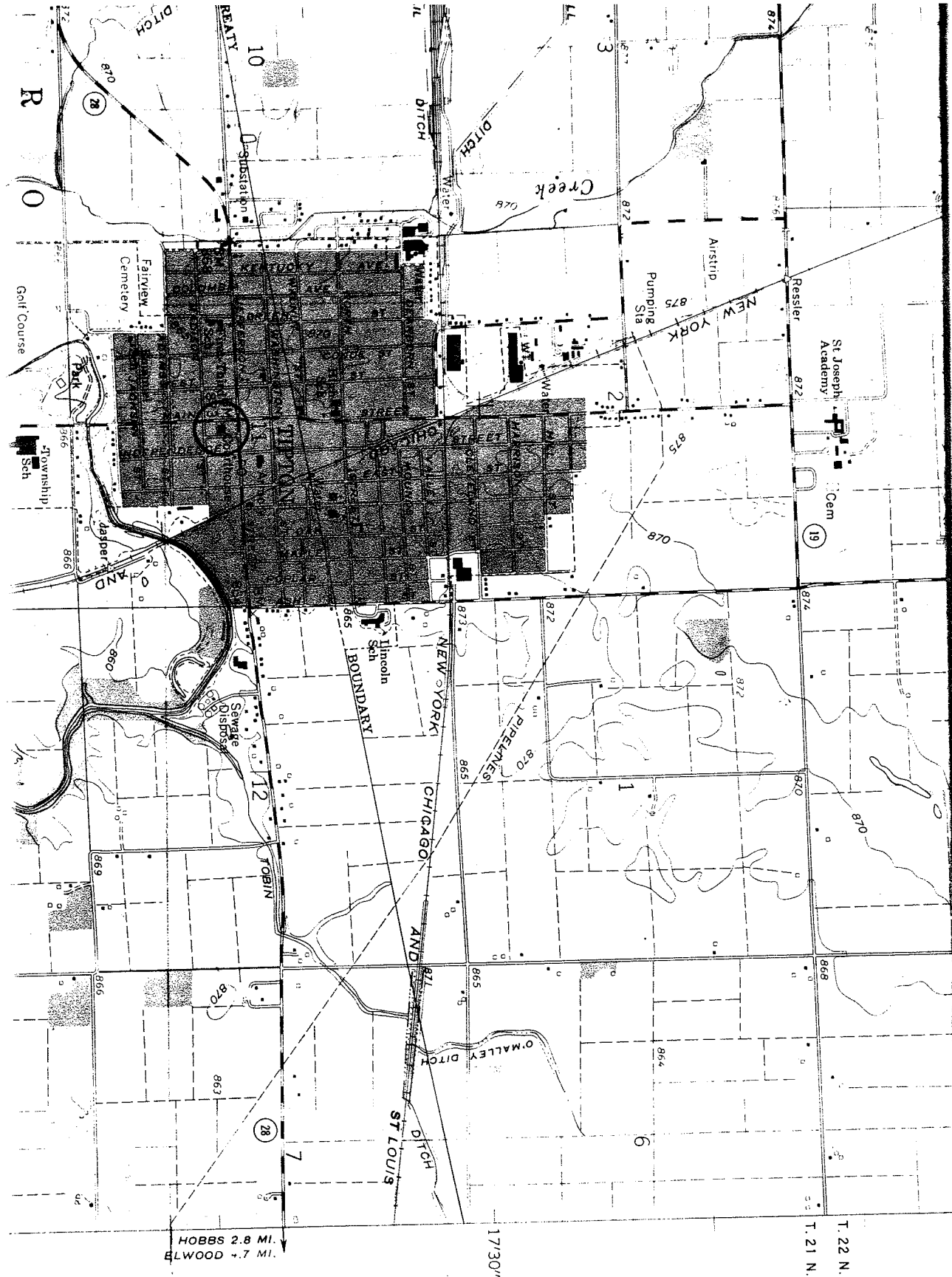
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



Tipton County Court House
 Tipton, Indiana
 UTM Reference: 16/580540/4459240

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Continuation sheet Tipton County Court House

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fourth floor there is a stairway leading to the clock tower. At the base of the tower cap there is a railing of stone and a promenade paved in encaustic tiling around which people may walk to view the city in all four directions. The stone railing is just above the clock and at a height of 128' above the ground. It is 180' from the ground to the point of the flag staff.



1. Tipton Co. Court House (1893-4)
2. Tipton, Indiana
3. O'Banion Photography
4. 1980
5. 127 W. Adams St., Tipton, Ind.
6. South elevation (back) also showing east side.
7. Photograph No. 2

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2. Tipton, Indiana
3. O'Banion Photography
4. 1980
5. 127 W. Adams St., Tipton, Ind.
6. North elevation (front) also showing
west side
7. Photograph No. 1

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Tipton, Indiana 1980

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Tipton, Indiana 1980